

## House Resolution No. 2691

**Whereas**, as the 2003-2004 school year draws to a close, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to applaud the career achievements of those individuals who are retiring from the field of education; and

**Whereas**, the DeSoto School District is losing a valuable member of its faculty on June 1, 2004, with the retirement of Darlene Colton who has devoted twenty-seven years of her life to the education of this state's young citizens through tireless endeavors as an elementary school teacher; and

**Whereas**, Darlene Colton has taught for twenty-six years at Athena Elementary School, where she is held in high esteem as an educator who demonstrates considerable competence and remarkable degrees of compassion and understanding; and

**Whereas**, deeply committed to the great cause of learning, Darlene Colton taught kindergarten in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District for one year prior to assuming her responsibilities at Athena Elementary School, where she has distinguished herself by teaching kindergarten for six years and second grade for twenty years, serving as a detention teacher, and participating in Weehawken Workshops; and

**Whereas**, Darlene Colton has watched her pupils grow, develop, and mature through the knowledge she has imparted to them both as a teacher and as a friend; and

**Whereas**, so many young Missourians have left the classrooms of Athena Elementary School fully prepared to face the challenges ahead as a result of the outstanding professional endeavors of Darlene Colton; and

**Whereas**, Darlene Colton has been blessed with the love and support of a wonderful family whose members include her husband, Bill Colton; her children and their spouses, Margie and David Burris, Kathy and Dave Ronek, and Krissy Colton and her fiancé, Matt Maerli; three granddaughters, Samantha, Nicole, and Abby; and her parents, Marge and Wally Kautzer:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join the DeSoto School District in expressing appreciation for the unparalleled service that Darlene Colton has rendered to Missouri's children and in wishing her the long, fruitful, and enjoyable retirement that she so justly deserves; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Darlene Colton, as a measure of our esteem for her.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Wes Wagner  
District No. 104

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2691, adopted May 5, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker